

Grants Available for Hiring New Personnel; Federal Program Accepting Applications Through April 14th

March 18, 2009

WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. Rep. Charlie Melancon (LA-03) today encouraged law enforcement agencies in south Louisiana to apply for a share of the \$1 billion in new federal funding now available for hiring additional career law enforcement officers. The Department of Justice began accepting applications for the program on Monday. The funding is available through the federal Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Recovery Program, a competitive grant program that provides funding directly to law enforcement agencies to help create and preserve jobs and to increase their community policing capacity and crime-prevention efforts. The additional funding for grants was made available through the recently passed American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (stimulus bill), which Rep. Melancon voted for in Congress.

"More police officers and sheriff's deputies on duty will reduce crime and make our communities safer, and I encourage law enforcement agencies in south Louisiana to see if they are eligible for these grants," said Rep. Melancon. **"The safety of our communities depends on our police and sheriff's departments having the resources they need to recruit and retain the best officers. I am proud to support these grants and other federal funding to help them meet these goals."**

Rep. Melancon has been a strong supporter in Congress of law enforcement efforts that engage citizens in crime prevention, such as the COPS program. In addition to voting for the Recovery Act, he also recently voted in support of the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009, which provided annual funding for the COPS program. Among the local law enforcement initiatives that are supported by the COPS Program are: community policing development, methamphetamine enforcement, law enforcement technologies, "secure our schools" programs, and child sexual predator elimination programs.

Grant applications for the COPS Hiring Recovery Program (CHRP) are available on-line at www.cops.usdoj.gov

. In addition to the application, the COPS website also has a number of supporting documents and information about COPS including a fact sheet, FAQs, and an application guide.

CHRP grant solicitation opened March 16, 2009 and will close April 14, 2009. To determine if your agency will be eligible to apply for CHRP funding, please click here: <http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/chrp/eligibilityanony.aspx>.

If you have any additional questions about the CHRP funding, please feel free call the US Justice Department at 202-514-9079.

CHRP grants will provide 100 percent funding for approved entry-level salaries and benefits for three years for newly-hired, full-time sworn officer positions (including filling existing unfunded vacancies) or for rehired officers who have been laid off, or are scheduled to be laid off on a future date, as a result of local budget cuts.

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